TEN TO CHI TO KAZE TO
CHAPTER 3: GENTLE DAYS

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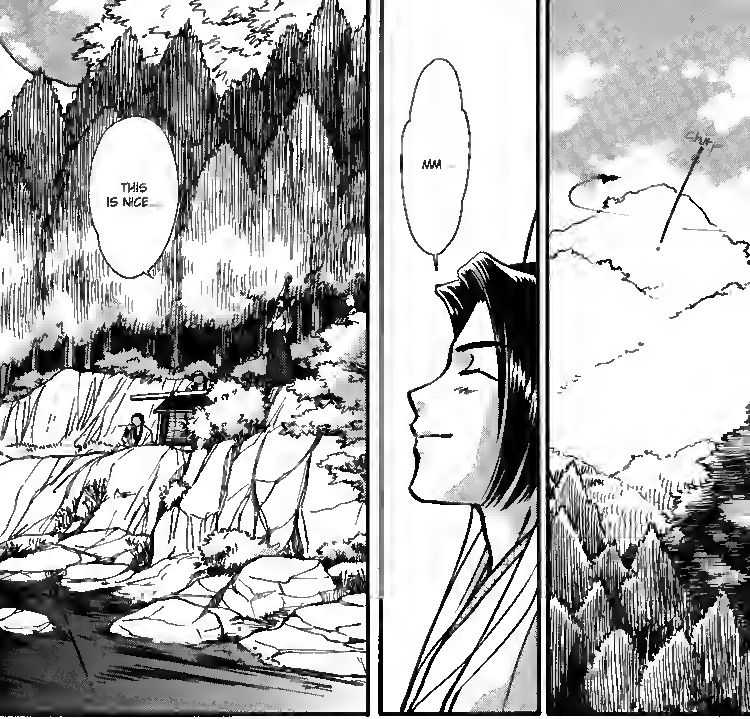
Gentle Days



FAMOUS BAKUMATSU-ERA RESTAURANT IN KYOTO

THE NAKAMURAROU: THE EXTERIOR FACADE AND INNER PARLOR DATE TO ITS ESTABLISHMENT DURING THE KEICHOU PERIOD (1596-1615)

AFTER THE MEIJI ERA, A HALLWAY WAS BUILT. SO TODAY MANY PEOPLE BECOME LOST INSIDE THE RESTAURANT. DURING THE BAKUMATSU PERIOD, THE RESTAURANT WAS FREQUENTED BY BOTH CHOUSHOU AND AIZU CUSTOMERS. SO MAYBE GUESTS KEPT THEIR FACES HIDDEN...?

THERE'S EVEN A BILL SHOWING THAT SAKAMOTO RYOUMA ATE THERE. BUT YOU'D THINK THE SHINSENGUMI COULD HAVE CAUGHT THE REBELS EASILY IF THEY WERE REGULAR CUSTOMERS...

LET'S WALK FROM HERE HIJIKATA-SAN
BUT I'M TIRED OF RIDING IN A PALAN-QUIN
WE'RE ALMOST TO THE INN IN KIFUNE
BE PATIENT
Hmph
SHUT UP! YOU'RE SICK
IT'S NICE TO GET CARRIED AROUND FOR A CHAN-GE
BUT IT'S BOUNCY AND IT MAKES MY BUTT HURT!
Sigh
WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY YOU SHOULDN'T BE WALKING!
THERE'S JUST NO USE TALKING TO YOU, TOSHI-SAN...

I WANT YOU TO TAKE SOUJI ON A VACATION

HUH?

HE'D AGREE IF YOU WENT WITH HIM, TOSHI-SAN
HE PROBABLY WON'T AGREE TO IT
WHY BOTHER?

BUT

ACTUALLY... Forgive me

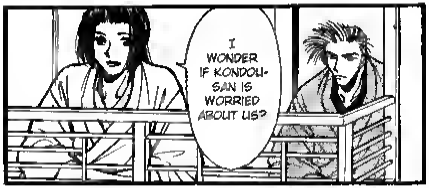
Fine fine
JUST DO IT!!

IF I LEAVE, WHO'S GOING TO RUN THINGS AROUND HERE?
Umph!

IT'S THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF SERIZAWA'S DEATH IT'S SOMETHING WE HAVE TO COMMEM-ORATE
!
THIS ISN'T EASY TO SAY
AND I THINK
I WANT YOU TO KILL SERI-ZAWA
IT WOULD BE PAINFUL FOR SOUJI TO REMEMBER THAT
IF HE STAYED HERE, ALL OF THOSE HORRIBLE MEMORIES WOULD COME BACK

EVER SINCE IKEDAYA, HE'S SEEMED LESS ENERGETIC — I'M AFRAID HE'S DEPRESSED
I DON'T LIKE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM.
.....

I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM.
IT SURE IS QUIET
I'LL DO IT
I KNOW HE'S THE ONE THAT CARRIED OUT THE ASSASSINATION, BUT I STILL FEEL GUILTY ABOUT IT, TOO
SHH!
OH...


I WONDER IF KONDOU-SAN IS WORRIED ABOUT US?

SINCE WE LEFT WITHOUT MUCH LUGGAGE...
ZAC
GAH!

BUT I LIKE THAT.
WE'RE A LITTLE OFF THE MAIN HIGHWAY.

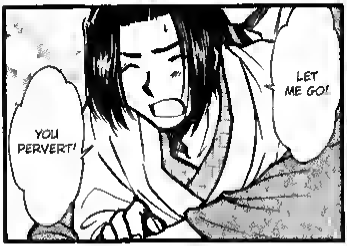
YOU IDIOT!

THIS TIME LAST YEAR I CAME DOWN WITH A FEVER AFTER THAT INCIDENT...

WE'RE ON VACATION. SO ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS SLEEP AND EAT. YOU'RE LOOKING SKINNY, SO MAYBE YOU CAN GAIN SOME WEIGHT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING.
ISAMI IS ALWAYS TALKING LIKE THAT, TOO... BUT WE CAN'T LET OURSELVES GET DRAGGED DOWN.
THAT'S THE PAST. TALK ABOUT THE PRESENT.
YUP.
laugh
YOU WANT ME TO GET FAT?
SO YOU'LL FEEL GOOD TO HOLD
JUST A LITTLE BIT
HIJIKATA-SAN...

DON'T YOU WANT TO DO IT?
HIJIKATA-SAN!!!

SO WHAT?
QUIT IT IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY!

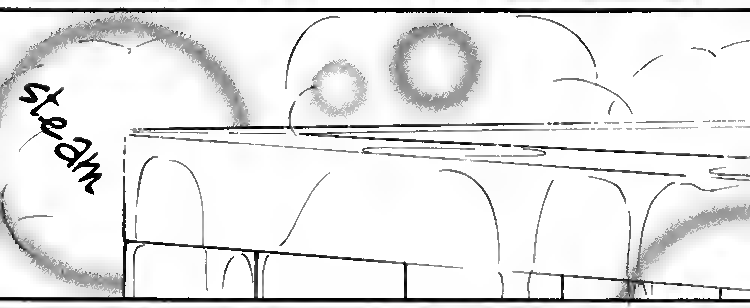

LET ME GO!
YOU PERVERT!

HIJIKATA SAN?

THE SHINSENGUMI WOULDN'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU
SO...
NEVER LEAVE ME.
I WON'T...

...HIJIKATA-SAN ISN'T THE KIND OF MAN WHO COULD STAY HERE AND LIVE PEACEFULLY...
SOON HE'LL BE ANXIOUS TO GO BACK.
KONDOU-SAN KNEW THAT WHEN HE LET US GO...

I'M SORRY, KONDOU-SAN... BUT I'M HAPPY LIKE THIS...
SO HAPPY IN MY LIFE...
I'VE NEVER BEEN...
HE'S SO KIND TO ME HE CARES FOR ME...
IS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION, OR IS HIS EMBRACE WARMER THAN EVER BEFORE?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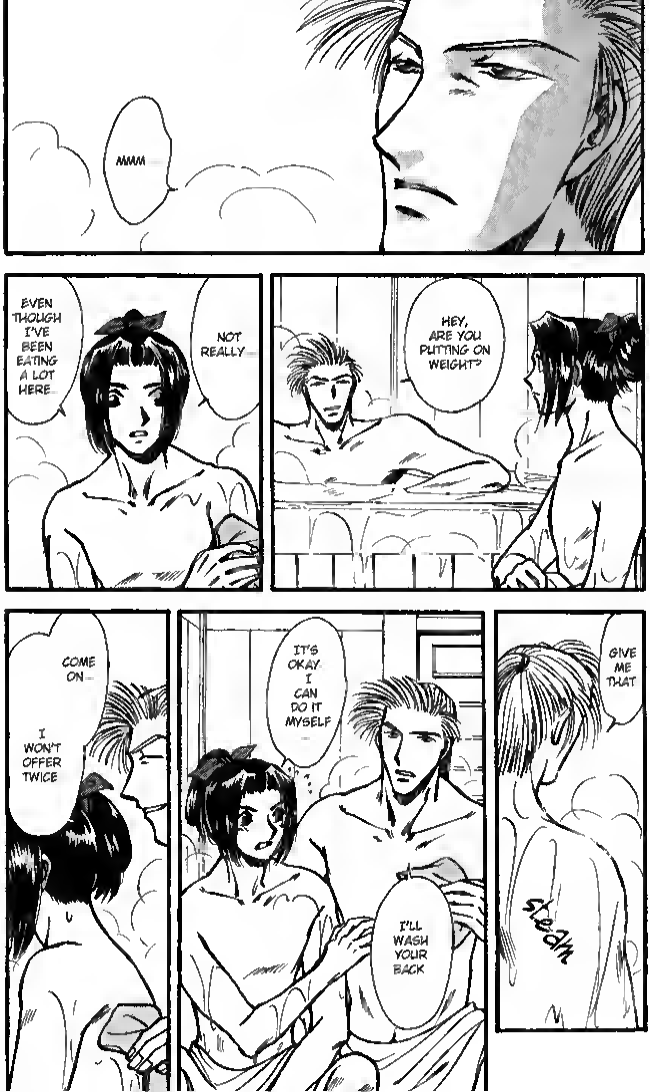

MMM
EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN EATING A LOT HERE...
NOT REALLY...
HEY, ARE YOU PUTTING ON WEIGHT?
COME ON...
I WON'T OFFER TWICE
IT'S OKAY I CAN DO IT MYSELF...
I'LL WASH YOUR BACK
GIVE ME THAT
Sleek

touch
HIJIKATA-SAN!
slap
OW!
I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN AROUND YOU...
THEN HOW ABOUT THIS!?
WAH!
So cruel
Act your age
WOOSH

RIGHT NOW, NAGAKURA IS WORKING ON SECURING A RECOMMEND-ATION FROM MATSUMAE IZUNOKAMI...
WE HAVE ENOUGH TIME AND ENOUGH MONEY, BUT THE PROBLEM IS...
RE-CRUITING HIM
CORR-ECT
I AM CERTAIN THAT HIS INTELLECTUAL AND MILITARY SKILLS SURPASS THOSE OF THE COMMAND-ER
HOWEVER, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HIS IDEOLOGY MATCHES THAT OF OUR GROUP
I NEED MORE TIME TO INVESTI-GATE...
OF COURSE...
SERIZAWA WAS GIVEN A VERY DISTINGUISHED EPITAPH
SO I GUESS YOU GUYS HAD A BIG MEMORIAL CEREMONY?
YES
"ALTHOUGH HIS SOUL HAS RETURNED TO HEAVEN HE WAS BORN TO SERVE AND TO GUIDE AND NOW HIS SPIRIT SHALL PROTECT THE EMPEROR."
BULLSHIT

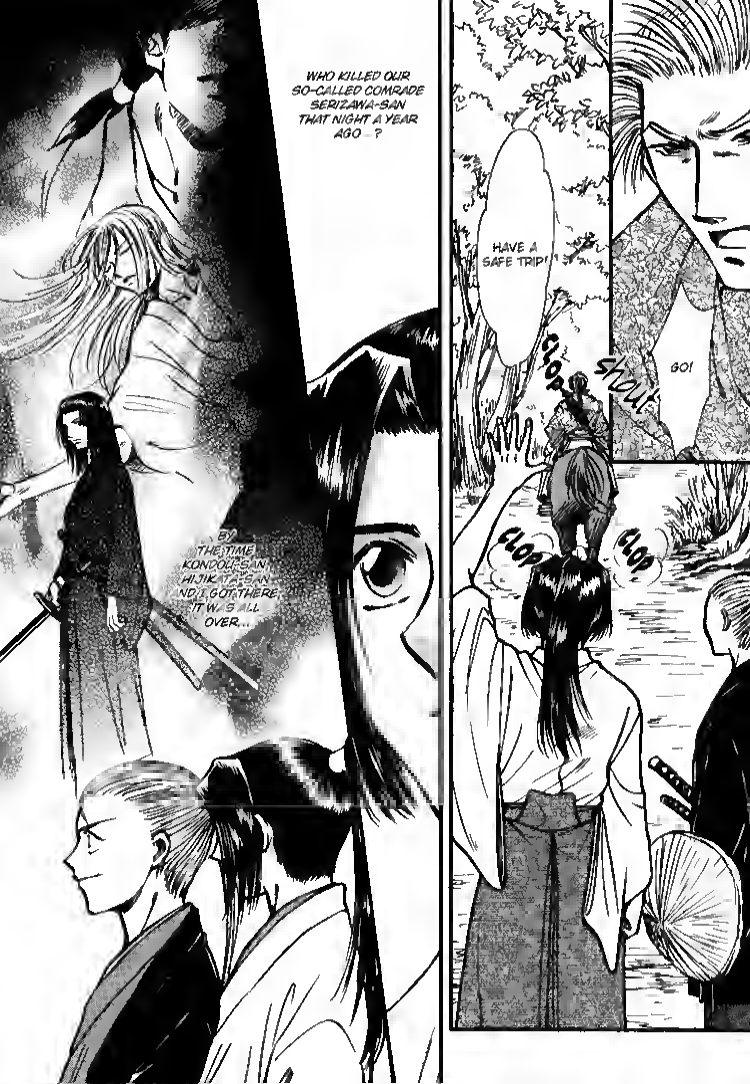
THE COMMANDER FELT IT WAS APPRO-PRIATE
BUT THAT GUY WAS...
HEISUKE ISN'T TAKING IT WELL.
HE SEEMS TROUBLED AND IT'S AFFECTING HIS WORK
I SEE.
SERI-ZAWA... AND HIM
I SHOULDN'T BE HERE...
HE SHOULD BE HERE NOT ME
A VICE-COMMANDER SHOULDN'T BE FOOLING AROUND
AND HEISUKE IS THE ONE WHO REALLY NEEDED A VACATION.
YES, SIR.

KIKU...
KIKUCHIYO.
WHAT-EVER HAPPENED TO THAT KIKU GUY?
YEAH! ARE YOU STILL VISITING HIM?
HE'S SHOUGUN IEMOCHI'S BODY DOUBLE... IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE...
NO...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
WE'LL WORK SOME-THING OUT!
WELL I KNOW SOUJI WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIM!
I SEE

I SHALL BE GOING.
SORRY I ASKED.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
hush
chirp chirp
chirp chirp

THE AUTUMN CICADAS ...
ARE STILL SINGING...
chirp chirp
HEY!

WELL, I'M GOING TO HEAD BACK
I'LL LEAVE HIM IN YOUR HANDS
I HEARD THE FOOD HERE IS GOOD!
WOW, SOUJI, YOU'RE GETTING FATTER!
IS EVERY-ONE GOING TO TEASE ME?
OKAY!
SURE!
HEY, HE WAS TALKING TO ME!
NO, HE MEANT ME!
WHAT-EVER!
SEE YA
CLOP
CLOP


WHO KILLED OUR SO-CALLED COMRADE SERIZAWA-SAN THAT NIGHT A YEAR AGO...?
BY THE TIME KONDOU-SAN, HIJIKATA-SAN AND I GOT THERE, IT WAS ALL OVER...
HAVE A SAFE TRIP!
GO!
SHOU!
KYU!
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP

I DON'T THINK TOUDOU-KUN COULD HAVE KILLED SERIZAWA-SAN...
WE NEVER TALKED ABOUT IT, BUT...
IT MUST HAVE BEEN SAITOU-KUN...
WITH A VOICE LIKE A WOMAN
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM
BUT THAT MAN HURT TOUDOU-KUN...
YOU'RE A PRETTY LITTLE BRAT
LET ME SEE THAT ASS
IT MUST BE YOUR FIRST TIME

SLASH
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO KILL YOU
GRAB
LET'S FINISH WHAT WE STARTED THAT NIGHT IN THE INN.
DAMN IT! AM I JUST GONNA GIVE UP LIKE THIS!?

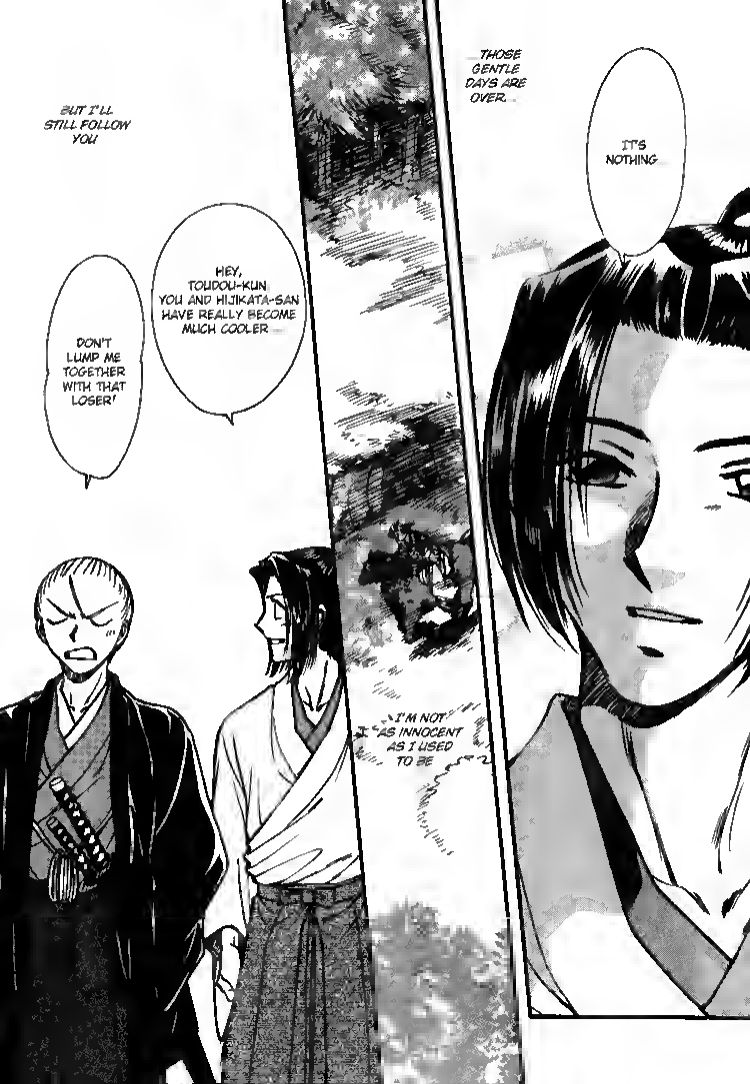
GASP
SLAM
KICK
WHO'S THERE!?

...HAJ
...ME...?

TWO YEARS AGO WE WERE STILL IN EDO
WE'VE BEEN LIKE THAT HORSE
HUH? YEAH, I GUESS IT DID.
THIS P ST YE R SURE WENT FAST.
SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE WE'RE MOVING TOO FAST
GALLOPING AFTER KONDOU-SAN AND HIJIKATA-SAN

YOU'RE ALWAYS SO STRAIGHT-FORWARD
WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, WE CAN RETURN TO EDO
REALLY? I FEEL NORMAL
HEHE...
WHAT'S SO FUNNY!?
"..."
IF HE JOINS US, WE'LL BE THAT MUCH STRONGER
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO...?
THAT'S RIGHT SO I INTEND TO PERSONALLY ASK HIM TO ENLIST

ARE YOU AGAINST THIS PLAN?
NO
I WONDER WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US FROM NOW ON...
IT'S ONLY BEEN A YEAR, BUT SO MUCH HAS CHANGED
DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU UNEASY?
HUH? NO IT SOUNDS FUN!
HEHEHE
WHAT THE HELL IS SO FUNNY!?
Damn it...


IT'S NOTHING
THOSE GENTLE DAYS ARE OVER...
I'M NOT AS INNOCENT AS I USED TO BE
HEY, TOUDOU-KUN YOU AND HIJIKATA-SAN HAVE REALLY BECOME MUCH COOLER
DON'T LUMP ME TOGETHER WITH THAT LOSER!
BUT I'LL STILL FOLLOW YOU

NO MATTER WHAT WE'RE LIKE A YEAR FROM NOW...
I'LL STILL BE RUNNING BESIDE YOU
LET'S GO INSIDE I BET YOU'RE HUNGRY
NO MATTER WHAT
OH YEAH! I JUST REMEMBERED THAT I'M STARVING!
TOUDOU-KUN WAIT! DON'T FORGET TO TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES AND WASH YOUR FEET FIRST!
THE END